

10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



June 2023

Feeding and Heavy Use Area Management

This practice is considered a high priority practice for the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program (State Cost Share), based on criteria outlined in 401 KAR 1:010. This best management practice concerns managing heavily used livestock areas in a manner that protects areas prone to water quality or soil erosion problems by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable load bearing materials, or by installing needed structures.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:

Landowners can protect or stabilize heavily used livestock areas by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable load bearing materials, or by installing needed structures. They should place livestock feeding and heavy use areas in a manner that recognizes areas prone to water quality or soil erosion problems and avoids such location related problems.

Recommendations:

Producers should fertilize and lime according to soil test results. Increased animal traffic around feeding and watering facilities makes these areas particularly susceptible to erosion, so they should be located up gradient from streams, drainage ways, and other water bodies. Portable shades, hay feeding racks, and similar facilities should be periodically moved about the pasture area to prevent overgrazing and denuding of any area. Areas with high stocking densities should use other best management practices to collect and store or filter out waste and sediment produced on these sites prior to this runoff reaching a drainage way, stream, open sinkhole, spring, well, or impounded body of water. Dirt lots located on sites with topography sloping towards a drainage way, stream, well, spring, impounded water body, or open sinkhole should maintain a 100-foot vegetative filter strip to separate the animal feeding area from these water systems.





Which Producers Might Be Interested:

Any producers in your district who have livestock which are fed outdoors, especially in winter months, and have a potential mud and manure management concern. Reaching out to these producers is one of the ways in which the conservation district board can carry out its mission of protecting the water in your community.

How to Reach Those Producers:

Coming to the producers is always a great way to find them. Consider using flyers and advertising at agriculture buildings, stockyards, and farm supply stores. The district could also advertise on radio and in the newspaper. Extension and producer meetings are a great way to reach the people who might be interested in establishing filter strips in their current operations.

Social media is another way to reach producers in your area. If your district doesn't already have a Facebook page, consider starting one. You can advertise your events and programs and can also use pictures and video to show how the district can help with a producer's problems.

Where Can Interested Producers Find More Information Online:

All BMPs the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority has approved: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Best-Management-Practices.aspx>

Kentucky Cooperative Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources publications:

<https://anr.ca.uky.edu/anr-publications>

- ID-188 Cattle Winter Feeding
- AEN-134 Fenceline Feeder Systems
- AEN-115 All Weather Surface Waterers
- ID-164 High Traffic Area Pads-Horses
- ID-171 Dry Lots to Conserve Pasture
- ID-176 Using Soil Cement
- ID-161 Pervious Concrete Floors

Eden Shale Farm <https://www.edenshalefarm.com/producer-resources.html>

NRCS's Field Office Technical Guide: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>

